# THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

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DEVOTED TO MORALITY, PURE LITERATURE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC NEWS, AGRICULTURE, THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST, SCIENCE, ART AND AMUSEMENT.

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## Original Poetry.

### ALICE.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.
BY HELEN A. BOSWICK.

I cannot tell you why her cheek
Grows every day more thin and white;
Why from her eyes no angel-meek,
There gleams no more the olden light.
I only know the fearful truth,
Some blight is withering up her youth.

Last night I watched beside her bed;
None but the moon looked on us there;
The hole one never from her head
One little ring of curling hair.
Those glossy rings upon her brow—
They never looked so dark as now!

And then with pallid hand she traced
Few words, and not to me directed;
And then the lock of hair she placed
Within the fold, and closely sealed.
And gave it me, and smiled, and said
I should know at all when she was dead.

Last May day more we chose her Queen;
And Queen so lovely never were
A crown, or maid the votive green
With such a lightsome step before.
Ah me! how gay she was—how free
With wild-flowers in her braided hair.

That day our maid a stranger shared,
And ever by her side would stay;
Till all the village girls declared
They cared not for his smile a whit;
And village gossips pronounced
Next May would crown our Alice—bride.

And on one bright mid-August day,
We had a picnic in the hills;
A heart's-ease is on her breast that day,
Intached on stem, and flower, and leaf;
He caught it ere it reached the earth,
Had worn it, like a gem of worth.

And now the heart—ease of her life
Is quivering downward to the grave,
A thought will cause with anguish rife—
And then the pallid cheek is pale.
Her blood runs cold, as ice, and thin,
At a new stirrer lash beat the knee.

And yet the nerves hold out thus,
And nothing—but the will is gone;
I cannot tell you if it is
Indeed a broken heart or no
I only feel the heavens rent,
Some great—a withering up her youth.

The wind of winter sweeps the wold,
And fiercely drives the snow and sleet
Alas! it is no token cold
To lie down in the winding-sheet!
Sweet friend, I can but hope for Alice pray—
That she may linger till the May.

## Original Novelet.

### CLARA MORELAND;

OR,

### ADVENTURES IN THE FAR SOUTH-WEST.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST,
BY EMERSON BENNETT,
AUTHOR OF "VIOLA," "FEARIE FLOWER," "FEMALE SPY," "ROSALIE DE FONT," ETC., ETC., ETC.

[Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1853, by Deacon & Peterson, in the Clerks Office of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.]

### CHAPTER VI.

THE HERMIT.

The wretched hovel we had thus entered unbidden, contained at the moment a number of inhabitants. It was a miserable affair indeed—being constructed of sticks and turf, and built against a large rock, which formed one of its sides. In two or three places the turf of the walls had crumbled away, forming those openings through one of which we had seen the light. There was no chimney, and no outlet besides the door.

The leaches surrounding this dismal cabin were high and so close, that one might have ridden past in broad daylight, without discovering the shanty at all, or even suspecting that there was not solid matter of the ground.

The interior was in keeping with all the rest. Besides the slab table and its primitive lounge, there were a couple of three-legged stools, a bed, a kettle, a gourd, and an old rusty gun, perhaps being a few coarse garments; while in one corner was a kind of dried grass, which probably formed the bed of the strange outcpand.

But who could this occupant be? and why did he or she live this secluded? Doubtless some misfortune, I thought, who, having renounced the world, and wishing to exercise no communion with the human race, had secreted himself on our approach, to remain hidden till our departure.

I communicated this idea to Clara, who, as she glanced timidly around, exclaimed, in a low, nervous tone:

"I shall thank Heaven if the owner of this abode keeps out of sight for the present! Ha! hark!" she said, catching hold of me, and shuddering as she spoke—"what sound was that comes?—oh, God! protect us!"

As she spoke, I heard a rustling of the bushes. Stepping to the door, I threw open one of its valves, and, keeping it out of sight, faced the door, ready for peace or strife, as the case might be.

At this moment the skin was thrust quickly aside, and I beheld a figure, clothed in skins, bloated her, disguised the outlines of a tall figure standing in the entrance. Then came a crash of thunder, that made the ground quake under me; and instinctively Clara threw her arms around me with a cry of terror. I grasped my weapon firmly, and kept my eyes fixed on the stranger.

For a few moments he silently regarded me; and then, as the roar of the thunder died away, he said, in a deep, sonorous tone:

"Peace be between us!"

"Amen! will ye enter?" returned I.

The stranger then advanced into the room; but as he came near the light, so that Clara could see him, she uttered a faint scream, and, crying out, fled, and clung still closer to me, as if for protection.

Nor was I myself very favorably impressed with the appearance of the stranger, as I surveyed him in the light. He was a tall figure, and notwithstanding his powerful language, I by no means felt disposed to be friendly with my recipient and regard him as a harmless thing.

In height he was not much short of six feet; thin and gaunt—all bone and muscle. His face was long, pale, and cadaverous, and in large black eyes, which seemed to roll restlessly in their hollow sockets, had a wild, unsettled expression. Over the eyes were large bushy brows, with a broad, high forehead, which, compared with the rest of the face, most of whose muscles were working in some manner, seemed to remain in great repose, as if consciousness of a master intellect. The nose was long, of the Roman type, and the mouth very large, with thick, projecting lips.

It was distinct to feel, after being had close study, what were the predominant propensities of this singular being; but it struck me, even at a cursory glance, that in him the animal and the intellectual warred for the mastery; and that in spite of reason and conscience, the former too often obtained a temporary victory. It was a fact that I could with near me under favorable circumstances, and I felt I could now have dispensed with it without a regret.

Not the least singular part of this strange being was his dress; and this, I doubt not, had as much to do with the fears of Clara, as the look he bestowed upon her. From the neck to the knees reached a long, loose frock or gown, made of bear-skin, dressed with the hair on, which was worn outside. This had a belt around the waist, but was without ornament or sleeves. A skull-cap of the same material, which fitted close to the head, and concealed the natural hair, if there were any, completed his attire. Not a single other garment, that I could discover, had he on; and his long, bony arms, hands and feet were entirely bare.

In the belt around his waist was carelessly stuck a long hunting knife, and this appeared to be his only weapon. A large cup, which had be placed on the table, containing water, led me to infer that he had just returned from filling it at the creek.

"Well," he resumed, looking hard at both of us, but letting his eyes wander over the trembling Clara, with an expression I did not like, at the same time drawing in his long sinewy arms, "well, what is the cause of all the sentence—you have lost your way, I think?—"

"And why do you think so?" I returned.

"Because you are here, and you should be elsewhere. I cannot suppose you did not the honor to come here expressly to see me."

"You are right, sir; we have missed our way—and shall be very thankful for any information that will enable us to get back to our friends. We left Houston a little before noon, to cross the prairie to a small village, called Centerville—had where we were, neither of us have any idea."

"To the best of my knowledge," replied the stranger, "you are about thirty miles distant from Houston, and at least twenty from the nearest settlement."

"Strange, that we could so have missed our way!" I rejoined. "But in what locality is the nearest settlement?"

"The nearest is on the Brazos, due west from here."

"Too far to ride to-night," I returned, "with our tired horses—therefore we must claim hospitality of you."

"I had rather you would ride on," said the stranger, gruffly. "I did not bargain with my blind."

"Nor do I," I replied sharply, glancing at his costume in a marked manner, "with such as make boasts of themselves, in more senses than one—but to the point, sir. Will you allow us to put up sometimes with things that are very disagreeable, merely for the privilege to leave in such a storm?"

"No," he answered; "but the storm will not last long, and there is a moon."

"But our horses—"

"Oh! they will take us through," cried Clara, eagerly, who now spoke for the first time; "they will surely hold out twenty miles—let us go."

At the first sound of Clara's voice, our stranger host fixed his large, black eyes upon her; and an expression came over his countenance that made me shudder. I thought now would be the moment to watch for the lesser animal. His dark eye-balls assumed a reddish, fiery cast—his nostrils dilated—his lips pulled away, and his whole frame seemed to tremble with brute passion, partially suppressed.

At one moment I thought him about to spring upon the speaker, and seek to rend her like a tigress; and I stood ready to do battle in her cause, that, in the event of such an attempt, I could interpose effectually.

Fortunately, Clara did not notice his manner; and when she ceased speaking, he pressed his hands to his face, for a moment—a shudder ran through his frame—and when I beheld his face again, it seemed more calm and composed than it any one could have believed.

"She says well," he said; "instinct, if not reason, would teach her to fear such wretches, as she desires to go, ask I pray to be left undisturbed from temptation. I am a curse to myself, a to my fellow-men, and I should be most thankful to be left to my solitude. Therefore, if you will, you can have my horse and mule, and welcome."

"And why do you think so?" I returned.

"Because you are here, when

# Our Correspondents

## A NEW METHOD OF TEACHING HISTORY.

**Mr. Editor:** I wish to interest you, if I can, in Miss Peabody's enterprise of introducing Bass's Method of History into the general education of this country. At the instance of distinguished friends of education in Massachusetts, among whom may be mentioned William Russell, formerly editor of the North American, and the Normal schools, it was introduced by the government into the primary schools and normal colleges, which were all furnished with charts, at the Government's expense, seemed a guarantee of success that the experiment would be further continued; for, beginning at the State Normal School of West Newton, Massachusetts, without publishing the work, which it was difficult to do through the usual channels, she has succeeded in getting it adopted in five State schools, wherever she has time for had opportunity to explain it, all along the line of a journey which she has made, beginning at Boston, and on the Western railroad, and stopping at Worcester, Northampton, Brattleborough, Pittsfield, Lenox, Troy, Great Barrington, Albany, where it is used in the State Normal School), Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cincinnati, and its vicinity, Louisville, Putney, Marietta, Hosmer, Pittsburg, Baltimore, Washington City, Richmond, Petersburgh, Cambridge in Maryland, Wilmington, Philadelphia, Burlington, Newark, New York, and its neighboring cities, Providence, R. Island, Lynn, Lawrence, &c. In short, wherever she has gone (and she has been applied to by brethren rather than marked out this course), she has been received with interest by the Committees, Boards of Directors, and especially by influential teachers, who have felt the exceeding difficulty of teaching history in the usual digest of the plan is this: The events which make the outlines of each nation's history are presented each by a color, appropriated to the particular nation, in the representations of each year in which they happened, and these years are represented each by a cube, after five minutes explanation, and a quarter of an hour's review, one year of the 2500 immediately preceding the Christian Era, or of the 1850 succeeding it, can be apprehended by the eye at a glance. For the years and centuries are not drawn out in a long line, which it is impossible for the eye to divide, but the years of every century are represented in a block, ten rows of ten years in each, and ten twenty-five centuries in a block, the succeeding Christ are made into a block (five rows of five centuries. A sheet of description is not worth the waiting sight of that chart to find nations its clevarness. It is a perfect map of time, where the student can survey the whole field. It is a greater help for history than the outline map is for geography, and it will some historians unfortunately taught, because as much for geography has been made by the use of the school slate. The latter had always been in use about forty years, and the effect of it has been to make the children of the whole country better acquainted with the nature of the earth than were the most enlightened scholars fifty years ago. Miss Peabody says that the great desirable how much the habit of poring over the map, has helped to excite and keep alive that almost-lost propensity of the American boy, by which has spread the whole earth over with American adventure; and the entire substitution of a similar familiarity with the map of history. It is the next forty years, as comprehensive views of what pertains to man's welfare and development, fitting young Americans for their great position and duty, as elements of a power on earth unfolding the powers of humanity to higher ends than the mere acquisition of material power. The difficulty of acquiring and of remembering the details of history, so that general views may be taken of the composition and character of the various great national powers, which have worked out important problems, political and chronological, in the old continent, seems to be annihilated by this very simple contrivance. For the student learns those distinctions by representing them in blanks, prepared for the purpose, as he studies the events of each history, a movement of which is given to the mind. This is an amazing way of memorizing, and presents a vivid picture to the eye. Taking up a nation after another, and going over its whole course, synchronisms are learned without effort, and the chronological relations of events of different countries suggest other relations, and gradually all the several lines of events are woven together by the mind—without the individuality of the nation being lost—and the visual memory fastens it all. When the first is done once, it is done forever. Subsequently reading does not disturb, though it enriches the picture changing as it sees in the moment's review a thousand associations. Itself a thing which can be learned by a child of ten years old, becomes the basis of an historical education which can be carried up to any height of development. This makes a child, even, an object of universal use in schools. Those who learn the first—that which is upon the charts—will be in the accompanying manual—make an invaluable attachment; and those who learn the rest by accompanying them daily, or following up with the most complete historical reading, do not neglect the advantage of having the outline before their eyes. All events of history, of course, are not represented, no more than at every step on the geographical line, but when any fact occurs it is finding it easy to find the corner in the chart, and there is no fact it cannot be found. The difficulty of remembering dates is the difficulty of remembering what is of no interest to the student, or which does not appear more so; and those facts which are letting connect the most important of the public concerns of Providence's purpose.

Miss Peabody's own experiments are to be published in a few days, and will be found in the hands of all the schools in which she has been. Those who have the least

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No. 66 South Third Street, Philad'a.

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DEACON & PETERSON, Proprietors.


## Congressional.

### SENATE.

On the 3d, Mr. Norris presented the memorial of the heir of Dr. Wells, praying that he may be compensated for his father's discovery of the Anæsthetic agent in surgical operations, and moved that it be referred to the Committee on Patents. After debate had on the table.

Mr. Pratt presented the memorial of the Proprietors of the New York and Havre Mail steamers, asking that the annual compensation of a million dollars may continue.

Mr. Cass presented the memorial of the Baptist Union of Missionary Societies, praying that the United States in behalf of the enjoyment by American, as a class, of religious liberty, may have the same opportunity for intercourse with the Government of Switzerland, from the United States, that is enjoyed by other nations, and to move in reference to the appropriate constitutional act. I do this, remarked Mr. Cass, in regard to the morons and position of those who make this appointment, but that the Senate may not be called upon them in the importance of the object and in the propriety of the memorial. I do not myself understand that it is an object desirable to the world or to our country, requires new and broader Understandings. The nature of their agree that we should not be the means of the progress of truth; and, in many countries, the civil authority imposes restrictions on the exercise of religion but its own; and that authority in that will not avoid of conducting the affairs of the citizens of performing the duties of their religion. The United States has never given further than to the exercise of conscience. There has not and must agree or be subject to the penalties of the Government to have any effect in the management of the Church hereafter. Mr. Cass proceeded to state the circumstances which had led to the memorial, and then commented on the subject in connection with the known decisive character. I believe the full and free Republican government of this country herself up with the fate of the Christian religion, and that a people who enjoy the blessings of liberty from the hands of the same Providence who has given us our liberties, are called upon to extend to other nations the blessings which are vouchsafed both around us—a work in which the Government of the United States can take no part. Christianity has always flourished most when it has been opposed, and the history of the world proves that it is necessary to the true religion and progress of the human race that it should be left entirely free to the exercise of conscience. 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### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On the 3d, the House went into Committee of the Whole and took up the bill for the payment of Navy Pensions to the widows, children, and orphans of officers, and made to be reported to the House. The Invalid Pension Bill was then taken up, and after debate, the House adjourned.

On the 4th it was said that they who have watched recent proceedings in Congress must have very deprecated change has taken place in public opinion, in relation to the subject of the Government of the United States in this country. There was a time when it was supposed that every Government undertaking to exercise the power of religion but its own; and that authority in that will not avoid of conducting the affairs of the citizens of performing the duties of their religion. The United States has never given further than to the exercise of conscience. There has not and must agree or be subject to the penalties of the Government to have any effect in the management of the Church hereafter. Mr. Cass proceeded to state the circumstances which had led to the memorial, and then commented on the subject in connection with the known decisive character. I believe the full and free Republican government of this country herself up with the fate of the Christian religion, and that a people who enjoy the blessings of liberty from the hands of the same Providence who has given us our liberties, are called upon to extend to other nations the blessings which are vouchsafed both around us—a work in which the Government of the United States can take no part. Christianity has always flourished most when it has been opposed, and the history of the world proves that it is necessary to the true religion and progress of the human race that it should be left entirely free to the exercise of conscience.

On the 5th, Mr. Pratt addressed the House. The Committee rose, and the House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Chase in the chair. He was not able to support the bill, because he thought it unconstitutional. Senator Underwood had moved Old Virgin or Mr. Chase, and he was not able to support the bill, because he thought it unconstitutional. He was not prepared to say he was opposed to the principle of the bill, but he was not prepared to say he was in favor of it. He was not prepared to say he was opposed to the principle of the bill, but he was not prepared to say he was in favor of it. He was not prepared to say he was opposed to the principle of the bill, but he was not prepared to say he was in favor of it.

On the 6th, Mr. Chase's motion to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union was agreed to, and he addressed the House.

On the 7th, Mr. Chase moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and he addressed the House.

On the 8th, Mr. Chase moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and he addressed the House.

On the 9th, Mr. Chase moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and he addressed the House.

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On the 5th, Mr. Chase moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and he addressed the House.

On the 6th, Mr. Chase moved to go into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union

## Selected Poetry.

### A DEATH SCENE.

"When she was dying, she sang sweetly, of the angels. Both the words and air melody were unknown to those around her."

A beautiful child was living
With pale hands over its breast,
And the mother who knew the hour was near,
Was weeping, with grief distressed.
Back from the pale, fair forehead
The golden ringlets lay,
And the watched each breath late ebb her
Only the slumbering clay

"Mother," in tremulous accents,
The little one murmured faintly,
"Sing me a song of the angels,"
And faster the tears fell then.
How should she sing to her darling?
She, in her wild, deep woe?
But her "hymn are strains o. music
Floating all soft and low.

For the dying child was singing,
And they hushed their hearts who heard,
And strange was the holy entrance,
Amongst such thrilling word.
Stronger each thrilling word.
It was not a strain of earthly
By the mother taught the child,
It was taught by the waiting angels,—
And as she sang, she smiled.

Firmly and serenely she warbled
The wildly thrilling air,
And with the last note vanished
The beauteous spirit there.
Then the mother to listen she sought
Waited for the darling dead.
But the thought of 50 little footsteps
By the waiting angels led.

And she seemed to see her scraping
Where the resting waters flow,
And in green pastures playing
Where the fadeless roses grow.
Then she seemed a beautiful maiden
In her bloom's noon at prime,
And on her temples were twining
The wreaths of immortal love.

Then she seemed to see her angels
Songs that were not of earth,
Where no fountains of grief are springing,
No sorrow or pain hath birth.
And she smiled in sweet resignation
Through the blinding tears that fell,
For her loved one dwelt with the Father,
And "he" dwelt all things well.
*Brooklyn, Mich.* *Olive Branch.*

## Selected Articles.

### THE PARIS COMMISSIONAIRES.

They are to be found all over the city, clad in blue velveteen trowsers and blue corduroy jackets, with brass plates affixed to their breast, containing their numbers, orders and names. They are faithful and intelligent men, and can be relied on for any commission, from the conscientious delivery of the Koh-i-noor itself to the most sentimental note that love-distracted swain ever indited; they black boots, carry baggage, wash faces, bear carpets, carry up fuel, in fine, do all the chores of a domestic establishment, even to making the beds. They watch with the sick and dead, pass and repass articles at the Monts de Piete, carry horses, travel—in short, it is impossible to find anything they are not ready to do at a moment's notice, even to giving you the news of the day or the gossip of the neighborhood. Did you let the "commissionaire" speak for himself, on one branch of his accomplishments,

—Sometimes, when a beautiful woman passes by, a gentleman says to me, Commissionaire, follow that lady, and try to find out her name you must bring me back her name and address, here is my card and direction where I live, get the name very exact, and bring me back the answer to my house at six o'clock this evening. I will pay you liberally for your commission. I answer him; 'Sir, Madame lives in (Rome, career saint whereby she is called Mademoiselle ——— Now, sir, you can write to her, if that is agreeable to you. This gentleman then says to me: 'Come to-morrow morning at nine o'clock: I will give you a letter to deliver to Mademoiselle.' Now I go and carry the letter. Monsieur sees me return. 'Here is the answer to your letter?' 'Ah! thank you, Commissionaire! Well, how much do I owe you, Commissionaire?' Sir, this young lady kept me waiting a long time for her answer, sir, it is well worth three sous, you know it is a long walk.' 'Well, the sum is nothing, Commissionaire; if I want you to-morrow, I shall pass by your station.' Now, this gentleman puts to me some questions. He says to me, 'Has this young lady got handsome furniture?' I answer him, 'Yes, sir, I and a good bed, a convenient writing table, a beautiful clock on the chimney-piece, and the floor was carpeted. In short, sir, I have told you all I saw. Sir I am going back to my station.' 'Well, that will do, Commissionaire! If I want you, I will let you know.' 'I thank you, Good day, sir.' Now, when a door-keeper refuses to tell me the name of the person I describe to him—for example, a tall, fair lady, who has put some in his hand—I have resumed over to the back of the concierge, to the stair-case on the right hand—I say to the door-keeper 'Monsieur door-keeper would you be so good as to tell me the name of that tall lady who has just gone in there at such a time?' The door-keeper will answer me: 'But what do you want with her name? I say to him: 'It is a gentleman who has given me the commission to know the name of that young lady (correcting himself), of that person, because I have not received orders whether she was married or an unmarried lady.' The door-keeper says to me: 'If such is the case, he will tell you. Wait a bit.' He says to me, demoiselle, such a one.' —on my part, I show a little civility to the door-keeper, by giving him a glass of wine.

—Now, there is another subject which I will explain to you. When a gentleman has confidence in his wife, he employs a Commissionaire to follow her when she goes out alone. Then the gentleman says to the Commissionaire 'Follow that lady, you must tell me of every place where she stops. I shall come to your station this evening for an answer.' Then I say to the gentleman: 'Sir, Madame stops at No. —— Street, No. —— Madame remained but half an hour in that house, during the time, I walked up and down opposite to the door of the gate, on the other side of the street, in order to know when she should leave the house. No. —— Madame went to the warehouse for notions, —— Street, No. —— From thence, Madame got into a hackney-coach, which she stopped in the street on coming out of the warehouse. As for me, I was too fast on foot to be compelled to follow the carriage. Madame got out of No. —— Street, say No. —— Madame went away the carriage, after having paid for it. Madame went into that house, where she staid an hour and a half. On coming out of that house Madame went straight home. Madame returned at home at five o'clock. I did not see any description of gentleman appear to Madame. In short, sir, these are all the details and observations which I can give you to-day. The gentleman says to me: 'Well, done, Commissionaire! How much do I owe you?' I say: 'I can appreciate enough to comprehend that your Commissionaire is worth.' 'Here, Commissionaire are two francs. Are you satisfied?' I say: 'I am satisfied.' 'I will put you to another. I will let you know, or I will go to your station myself.' I say to him: 'Very well, I shall be all right. I thank you. Good day, sir.' Well, the next morning the gentleman comes to me, Commissionaire, can you do me the same commission that you did yesterday? You understand—some with her. For example, I have held opposite my carriage gate when a lady comes out—a brisk footed—she is dressed in half-mourning, she has a gown of tartan silk, a green bonnet, and a large shawl, with a red ground and red flowers—you will follow her. Keep yourself at a distance, some way off, so that she may not suspect that you follow her: bring me back a very exact account. You must tell me whether she has stopped, the name of the street, and the number of the house, and of all the houses where she may stop. I shall expect you and you answer him evening at seven o'clock.'

—It is now seven o'clock. Oh! I have done pretty commissionaire very exactly. On leaving her house, Madame stopped on the Boulevard, at a shoemaker's shop. Madame staid there fifteen minutes. Madame went to —— Street, No. —— Madame staid two hours in that house from thence Madame came out, she went into the Garden of the Tuileries; Madame was talking for about with a gentleman, who, I understand, not very tall, of a dark complexion; a gentleman who may be about eight-and-thirty: this gentleman wears moustaches. From thence Madame parted with this gentleman, she returned home to her own house at 6. This is all the tour Madame has made to-day.

—Sometimes a lady in the same way makes me follow her husband, whom I know. In order that this gentleman may not recognize me, I dress myself decently, like a citizen. Well, yesterday, supposing, since followed a gentleman, for ten days, at the rate of six francs a day, in the course of all those ten days he was not able to discover or find out anything." *Parisian Duplex seen through American Spectacles.*

## DR. FRANKLIN'S OPINIONS ON MUSIC.

The following letter on music, by the Philosopher of America, is from the "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin, L.L. D., by his Grandson, W. Temple Franklin, 1818." The interest which this great man took in the art, may be seen in his letter to the Padre Beccatini, describing "the new musical instrument composed of glasses," of his own invention, (vol. ii, p. 350;) as also in the letter to Mr. Oliver Neave, "respecting the best machines for correcting sound." (ii. p. 353.—*New York Musical Times.*

To Louis Kunze—

* * * * In my passage to America, I read your excellent work, the "Elements of Criticism," in which I found great entertainment. I only wished you had examined more fully the subject of music, and demonstrated that the pleasure arising to the hearing much of that compound in the modern taste, is not the natural pleasure arising from melody or harmony of sounds, but of the same kind with the pleasure we feel on seeing the surprising feats of tumblers and rope dancers, who execute difficult things. For my part, I take this to be rather the case, and suppose it the reason why those who are unpractised in music and therefore unacquainted with those difficulties, have little or no pleasure in hearing this sound. Many persons of it are compositions of truths. I remember, formerly, at a concert, attended by a common audience, placed myself so as to see all their faces, and observed no signs of pleasure in them during the performance of a great part of what was admired by the performers themselves. Only when it ended, and the applause of they disdained, and could scarcely be prevailed upon to play, gave manifest and general delight.

Give me leave, on this occasion, to extend a little the sense of your position, that 'melody and harmony are separately agreeable, and in union delightful;' and to agree to it in opinion, that the reason why the latter pleases better lived so long, and will probably live forever, (if they escape being killed in early infancy) consists merely in merely this, that they are really compositions of melody and harmony united, or rather that a melody is made harmonious—I mean the simple tunes sung by a single voice. As this will appear paradoxical, I must explain it by reasoning. In common acceptation, indeed, only an agreeable succession of sounds is called a melody, and the succession of agreeable sounds, *harmony*. But since the memory is capable of retaining for some moments, a perfect idea of the pitch of a sound, so as to compare with it the pitch of a succeeding sound, and judge exactly of their agreement or disagreement, there may and does arise from thence, a sense of harmony between the present and past sounds, equally pleasing with that between two present sounds. Now the construction of the ear, which time in this, that almost every succeeding emphatical note is a third, a fifth, an octave, or some other harmonic to a note of the same with the preceding note. Thirds are chiefly used, which are very pleasing connexed. Upon the whole, *simplicity* is to be considered, where the melody is not rendered harmonious by the union of different sounds, *agreeably